

CONFIDENTIAL

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01C - 78-0743/1
23 February 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Sanitization of the Senate Closed Debate on Panama

1. By noon on 23 February 1978 representatives from State, DEA, NSA and CIA had completed a sanitization of both sessions of the Senate's closed debate on Panama. The excisions made by each were color-coded so that Senators going over the transcript would immediately know who had excised what. The three CIA representatives hewed closely to the sources and methods line and found that there was not a great deal of CIA equity to protect (NSA had by far the most). Admiral Inman himself appeared on the morning of 23 February and went over the deletions which his able assistant, [redacted] had made.

2. At 1:00 PM on 27 February I will be going back down to the Capitol Building to be on hand as a Senate team (composition unknown) goes over the edited transcript. I will be standing by with Bob Beckel of the NSC to defend excisions which we made. Preliminary indications are that State will be hardest pressed to defend what they removed.

3. An added bonus was lunch today (23 February) at which [redacted] and I encounter Loch Johnson of the HPSCI Staff in the Senate dining room (he heads Les Aspin's sub-committee staff and used to work for Senator Church). I said I would like to meet Tom Latimer for a tour d'horizon, as I had done with Bill Miller. Johnson said he would pass this along. He fully agreed with my expressed hope that the Agency can move into a more collegial posture vis-a-vis Congress and the intelligence oversight process. [redacted] chipped in and said NSA had found it helpful in dealing with Congress to have as much contact as possible between substantive officers and committee staff and members. Johnson subscribed to that theory. All in all a friendly encounter, with Johnson clearly having profited from his briefings on CA by [redacted]

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Donald P. Gregg
SA/DO/O

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cc: DDO
ADDO

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